

## V. **Director's Report:**

- A. **Hiring:** We will have five new special education teachers in the cooperative next year. Four of those individuals have experience in other districts. This is exciting to have such degrees of experiences. Overall hiring seemed to be a bit better this year, but the shortage of school psychologists is horrible.
- B. **Negotiations:** We need to do certified negotiations. So, I will be asking for a volunteer. We ask for one superintendent and one board member; Evan Gough has agreed. Typically this is not too many meetings (I don't think we have ever gone more than two). I would like to do this summer, but I would also like to wait until a couple of our districts settle.
- C. **Early Childhood Special Education:** We made a transition this year to having ECSE claimed in MARSS by our member districts. This has gone well, but we had an issue with the finance end of this. I developed a plan to address this. I will explain this at the meeting.
- D. **Efficiency and Effectiveness:** Our mission is really helping districts be efficient and effective with education. I have recently done some studies on these topics. I included the summaries and will explain further at the meeting. I think we do very well in this area.

## VIII. **Personnel**

### A. **Hiring**

1. Sonya Massey: I recommend Sonya to fill Kendra Mattix's position who is taking Susan Krueger's position at a Step 12 with \$2000 stipend for the first three years. Sonya has been working as an ECSE teacher at Jackson County Central. Her experience and knowledge will be very valuable.
2. Stacie Winker: Stephanie Schmitz recommends Stacie to fill April Detloff's position at Step 8. Stacie has been working at Round-Lake Brewster. It will be great to have someone with experience.
3. Ron Helmich: Stephanie Schmitz recommends Ron to fill Jennifer Kafka's position at Step 1. Ron is a licensed social studies teacher who will qualify for a variance. Ron worked for many years as a special education paraprofessional at Martin County West.
4. Britney Kaweck: I recommend Britney to fill Jane Kotewa's position at a .6 FTE at Step 8. Britney comes with a wealth of experience from Mayo. She has a great personality that will be a real asset.
5. Marissa Hamilton: I recommend Marissa to fill Amy Pearson's position at a .8 FTE at BA40 Step 1. Marissa is a student at the University of MN Mankato with two years remaining in her program. This fall she only has class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00, so this will work well for her. She has very few classes left and should qualify for a limited license. Lori Jacobsen and Kelli Olson sat in on the interview and loved Marissa's excitement and eagerness.

### B. **Resignations/Terminations/Retirements**

1. April Detloff: I recommend approving April's resignation. April has been a teacher working as a community expert. We were able to find a licensed teacher, and April resigned. April is a great asset, and I encourage districts to consider hiring her once she is licensed.
2. Jennifer Kafka: I recommend termination of Jennifer as she is a community expert, and we were able to hire a licensed teacher.
3. Amber Singleton: I recommend approving Amber's resignation as a Fairmont High School paraprofessional.

4. Adam Walker: I recommend approving Adam's resignation as a Fairmont High School Paraprofessional.

**C. Extended Leave**

1. Jennifer was out on FMLA leave; however, her 12 weeks of leave ended on 4/19/17. The remaining leave is discretionary based on board approval, and I recommend approving this leave.

**IX. New Business**

**A. Approve Southern Plains Education Cooperative Calendars**

Stephanie and I recommend approving these calendars. These are fairly typical without significant changes.

**B. Instructional Staff Sharing Agreement:**

This has been an agreement we have had with MN Valley Ed District since we took on United South Central.

**C. Appoint Dawn Becker, Business Manager, as the Identified Official with Authority**

This is a required annual authorization.

**D. Approval for Signatures on School District Checks**

This is a required annual authorization.

**E. Access to Bank Accounts**

This is a required annual authorization.

**F. Approve Addendum #3 to Lease Agreement**

This is the agreement for our office lease. There is a small increase consistent with the consumer price index which is standard. No other changes in the agreement.

**G. Approve Agreement with Sara Swanson for On-Call Interpreter Services**

We have a language facilitator (non-licensed sign language interpreter). It would be nice to have a substitute. This individual is a licensed sign language interpreter willing to do subbing. The agreement is with her company "Sarah Swanson Interpreting" at \$38 per hour. We put a limit of up to 80 hours per year. This would only be when needed to fill in for our current staff member.

**H. Approve Audit Agreement with Clifton Larson Allen for Fiscal Year 2017**

This has been our same firm for several years, and I support this for one more year. They have always worked well, and we appreciate their expertise on federal funds. We are frustrated with some timing and accuracy issues, but we had a long conversation with the lead auditor and hope that this will improve this year.

**I. First Reading of Policies**

1. 110 – Governance: This is a policy based on recommendations after Dennis Cheesebrow presented to the board. It lays out the roles and responsibilities of all parties.
2. 120 – Services: Also after Dennis presented, several board members suggested we identify what it means to be part of Southern Plains, which services are the “core” services. This has been a regular topic of discussion with the Superintendent Advisory group. It is generally agreed that having the “core” services we have are a significant part of what helps Southern Plains be the most effective and efficient.

We have several other policies that need to be updated due to personnel changes; however, I want to make sure there are no updates from MSBA. MSBA’s website has not been working. If they are small changes, I will have those available first reading on Monday night. These are the sex and family discrimination, harassment, student discrimination (504), and parking of vehicles policies.